

of the *majority*, though it may be contrary to his wishes; that is, conflict with his personal preference."

If, then, there be two candidates for office in a State, county, or district, no matter where or what the office, high or low, and a voter, a member of this order desires ever so earnestly, for never so good a reason, to vote for one of them, and a majority of them wills it otherwise, he—this member of the order—cannot conform his conduct to the dictates of his own judgment or convictions of what is right and proper, but must sacrifice both and do that which he thinks wrong, at the command of the majority of the order! Call you this freedom, or that the exercise of free suffrage! Besides, he is bound, by the second degree oath "to *support* in all political matters, *for all political offices*, members of this order in preference to other persons! Is that a free vote? Can any man call that the exercise of a proud prerogative of an American freeman, the right to judge and act freely and independently, according to the dictates of his own judgment and conscience, upon all political matters—that right which so pre-eminently distinguishes the American citizens from and above the citizens of all other countries on the earth? Assuredly not, for the vote is neither free nor voluntary which is given without the approval of the judgment, contrary to the wish or personal preference of the voter, and in obedience to the behests of any other power than the voter's own will, no matter what that power may be or where lodged, whether in a State or National Council of an order, or any where else!

It would be both curious, instructive and distressing, to be able to look in upon the secret recesses of feeling and of thought, and see their workings in the heart of some worthy citizen, it might be the son of one of those revered heroes who sealed with their heart's best blood, the charter of American liberty, going up slow and reluctantly on an election day to deposit his vote in obedience to the will of the majority of the order, or it may be Council, and contrary to his own will and judgment, for it must be borne in mind he must go. His obligation is active, not passive. He, according to the form of oath before cited, is bound to *support*, not refrain from opposing, a *member of the order* in preference to other persons. Under such circumstances, let us imagine what would be his feelings and reflections. Would he not think in his heart, and grieve while he thought, Alas! I once was free! The spirit of liberty once nerved my soul, and I stood fearlessly and bold upon the earth, and could and did claim to be the peer of any man! But what am I now? No longer free—bound and fettered; the enthralled instrument of others, and to do their